



Life in the Universe

Jeffrey O. Bennett , Seth Shostak

Download now

Read Online 

Life in the Universe

Jeffrey O. Bennett , Seth Shostak

Life in the Universe Jeffrey O. Bennett , Seth Shostak

*For intro-level, one-semester multidisciplinary science and astronomy courses. Encourage students to explore answers to questions about life beyond Earth and our solar system. **Life in the Universe***

provides an ideal starting point for non-science majors intrigued by the latest discoveries about life in the solar system and beyond. Rigorously researched and accessible to students of all backgrounds, the text introduces concepts drawn from astronomy, biology, and geology to explain natural phenomena and to explore profound scientific questions about astrobiology. The **Fourth Edition** has been thoroughly revised and updated to include the latest scientific discoveries and advancements, including new information regarding extrasolar planets, artificial life, and early life on Earth. Designed for courses in astrobiology, **Life in the Universe** arouses students' natural curiosity by exploring fundamental questions such as: How did life begin on Earth? What are the most extreme forms of life currently known? What do we know about the possibility of life beyond Earth? The text encourages non-science majors to develop an understanding of the process of science through its inherently compelling subject matter as well as its wealth of engaging features, including Learning Goals, Special Topics, and connections to popular culture. Sidebars provide optional mathematical material for courses that fulfill quantitative requirements. **Also Available with**

MasteringAstronomy (TM) Available for the first time, MasteringAstronomy from Pearson is the leading online homework, tutorial, and assessment system, designed to improve results by engaging students before and after class with powerful content. Instructors ensure students arrive ready to learn by assigning educationally effective content before class. Students can further master concepts after class through traditional homework assignments that provide hints and answer-specific feedback. The Mastering gradebook records scores for all automatically graded assignments in one place, while diagnostic tools give instructors access to rich data to assess student understanding and misconceptions. Mastering brings learning full circle by continuously adapting to each student and making learning more personal than ever--before and after class. **Note:** You are purchasing a standalone product; MasteringAstronomy does not come packaged with this content. Students, if interested in purchasing this title with MasteringAstronomy, ask your instructor for the correct package ISBN and Course ID. Instructors, contact your Pearson representative for more information. If you would like to purchase both the physical text and MasteringAstronomy, search for: **0134068408 / 9780134068404 Life in the Universe Plus MasteringAstronomy with eText -- Access Card Package** Package consists of:

0134080017 / 9780134080017 MasteringAstronomy with Pearson eText -- ValuePack Access Card -- for Life in the Universe 0134089081 / 9780134089089 Life in the Universe 0321765184 / 9780321765185 SkyGazer 5.0 Student Access Code Card (Integrated component)

Life in the Universe Details

Date : Published January 14th 2016 by Pearson (first published July 29th 2002)

ISBN : 9780134089089

Author : Jeffrey O. Bennett , Seth Shostak

Format : Paperback 560 pages

Genre : Science, Astronomy, Space, Biology, Physics, Textbooks

 [Download Life in the Universe ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Life in the Universe ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Life in the Universe Jeffrey O. Bennett , Seth Shostak

From Reader Review Life in the Universe for online ebook

Jacqueline Quackenbush says

This textbook presents the emerging science of astrobiology in an interesting and mathematically non-stressful manner. Geared towards the non-science major, this book is very accessible to readers of all academic backgrounds. The first chapters cover the basics necessary for understanding the physics, geology and biology necessary for future chapters. After going through the struggles of trying to define life, the later chapters explain current sites of interest in the search for life in our own solar system and eventually, in other star systems.

I have a real fascination with astrobiology and have read quite a bit on the subject in popular science books. Despite having a science background I thought this basic textbook would be a good way of bridging into some more serious reading. This is why I found myself skipping a couple of the first chapters, particularly the ones that sought to explain the biological principles that play a part in this interdisciplinary science. While I'm familiar with the basics of some of the physics and geology involved, I did find the basic chapters for these very helpful for review as I'm not nearly as well versed in these subjects. So, despite my neglect, I do imagine the chapters I skipped to be as well written as the chapters covering other topics.

The later chapters extend the discussion to which areas in our solar system and beyond are the most likely to harbor life; why these are the most likely, and the research that came to this conclusion, are all explained in light of the completely Earth-like science we had learned previously. Attention is also given to the physics behind various spacecraft, what physical realities we would need to confront to leave our star system, and some basic ideas of how we might go about engineering such crafts.

I honestly enjoyed reading this, and that is not something I can say about many textbooks. The subject is fascinating, the writing is great and the lack of math leaves it an easy read, with mathematical asides of key equations for those interested in taking their understanding to another level. If you're looking for an intro text on astrobiology, this is it!

You can read this review, others, and a wealth of information for independent learners at my blog: www.theacademicjawa.com

Meghan says

Fascinating and informative textbook about where and how life might develop or be discovered within our universe. Gives background about Earth's history and the rise of life on Earth.

Nicholas says

As far as textbooks go, this one isn't half bad. *Life in the Universe* is a smattering of all of the sciences that are involved in the search for life (intelligent or otherwise) in the universe. As such it's something of a basic primer in chemistry, physics, statistics, astronomy, biology, evolution, and Earth sciences relevant to the quest for life. The tone of the book is remarkably reserved and the authors check their enthusiasm for the subject by allowing reality to check their optimism. The universe is a remarkably large place and the distances between oases for potential life vast.

I think this is a great all around science book. It lacks the narrative pull of a book like *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, but has a significant amount of wonder and awe for a textbook of its kind. This might be a great book to teach a physical sciences course at the high school level. It covers relevant topics and information all people should know about science, but it has a direction and purpose to its narrative. It fits the science into a broader, more interesting question that I think would make these subjects more interesting for the nonscientifically inclined.

It's incredibly unfortunate that the class that went along with it was poorly managed, had no transparency in its grading system, and reduced a really interesting subject to really tedious tasks.

I Culé says

Science like a story!

Nathaniel says

A decent introduction to astrobiology but far from a comprehensive text.

No science background is needed; Bennett and Shostak cover all the relevant astronomy, biology, and chemistry. *I have* that background and still learned a fair bit, though a few chapters dragged on a bit.

My major complaint is the authors' attitude towards the subject matter. The nicest way I can think to phrase it is *defensive*, as if they're used astrobiology being dismissed as sci-fi whackery. The book is full of dedicated potshots at even hard science fiction. I really don't understand the motivation there—it certainly broke the flow of discussion and would only serve to lower the intelligent reader's credulity. "Antimatter might sound like the stuff of science fiction" hardly makes sense to mention when we're talking about travelling to meet alien civilizations. By this point, your audience is still with you, or they aren't. Caveats about *real science* don't help.

Lastly, addressing the book's content, I found a number of arguments for the likelihood of alien life hinged on intuition and the assumption that Earth is extremely typical. I'm a motivated skeptic when it comes to sentient extra-terrestrials and would have appreciated further evidence that that's true. Part of the problem is that we *don't* know, but also contributing is the fact that this is an introduction, and I'm rushing ahead to special topics. If there's advanced books on the subject you'd recommend, let me know.

Erika says

I learned a lot.

Merebear Thompson says

Great introduction to astrobiology for those who need an introduction to almost everything. hahaha. I have to read it for a class, but this one is staying on the shelf. I recommend it to anyone who wants to know the

basics of the universe, if they want to stay up to date on discoveries and new technology. awesome book!

Ryan says

An excellent introduction to astrobiology for the non-scientist.
